

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

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NEA - MR. ATHERTON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SA

SUBJECT: YAMANI SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

REF: (A) STATE 20543; (B) JIDDA 811

1. JOHN HUGHES, EDITOR OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, HAS INVITED YAMANI TO SPEAK TO ANNUAL MEETING OF AMERICAN SOCIETY NEWSPAPER EDITORS (ASNE) IN WASHINGTON AT LUNCH, APRIL 18, NOT APRIL 14 (REFTEL B). SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS TENTATIVELY AGREED TO SPEAK TO ASNE LUNCHEON APRIL 17. PRESIDENT FORD HAS BEEN INVITED TO SPEAK AT THE FINAL DINNER, APRIL 18, BUT WHITE HOUSE SAYS FORD ACCEPTANCE STILL PENDING.

2. MONITOR BUREAU HERE SAYS DR. OBAID, YAMANI'S OFFICE DIRECTOR, HAS INFORMED HUGHES YAMANI IS ANXIOUS TO ACCEPT APRIL 18 INVITATION BUT CAN GIVE NO FINAL ANSWER UNTIL MID-FEBRUARY. YAMANI TOLD MONITOR CORRESPONDENT DANA ADAMS SCHMIDT, ACTING FOR HUGHES IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION, THAT

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YAMANI HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO BE IN UNITED STATES

APRIL 7 FOR ANOTHER ENGAGEMENT. YAMANI IS UNCERTAIN HE CAN BE IN U.S. SO LONG TO DO TWO ENGAGEMENTS THAT FAR APART.

3. APRIL 7 ENGAGEMENT IS OBVIOUSLY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EXECUTIVES MEETING IN NEW ORLEANS (REFTEL A). BOTH AP AND ASNE MEETINGS ARE IMPORTANT MEDIA EVENTS DRAWING TOP FIGURES. AP HAS ALSO ASKED DEPARTMENT HELP IN GETTING YAMANI. IF YOU THINK DESIRABLE, SUGGEST YOU ASK WHETHER YAMANI MIGHT NOT DO BOTH ENGAGEMENTS. KISSINGER

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